



**NEIGHBORHOOD ENHANCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, April 1, 2009
Civic Center Conference Room
3rd Floor One Civic Center
7447 E. Indian School Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85251**

PRESENT: Aaron Kern, Chair (arrived at 5:51 p.m.)
Jim Pompe, Vice-Chair
Matt Kalina, Commissioner
Jeff Kidder, Commissioner (left at 7:11 p.m.)
Cristina Lenko, Commissioner
Christine Schild, Commissioner

ABSENT: Douglas Patriquin, Commissioner

STAFF: Joanie Mead, Citizen & Neighborhood Resources Dept. Education Manager

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Vice-Chair Pompe called the regular meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. A roll call confirmed the presence of Commissioners as noted above.

1. Approval of February 4, 2009 Meeting Minutes

COMMISSIONER KIDDER MOVED TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 4, 2009. COMMISSIONER LENKO SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY A VOTE OF FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR KERN ARRIVED LATER AND COMMISSIONER PATRIQUIN WAS ABSENT.

2. Discussion to Revisit the 2008 Strategic Planning Retreat Project Ideas and Possible Coordination of a Neighborhood College Class Related to Neighborhood Organization

Ms. Mead presented the 2008 Activities Chart, recalling the Commission's request to revisit the 2008 Strategic Planning Retreat project ideas as well as possibly creating a Neighborhood College class on organizing neighborhoods.

Vice-Chair Pompe suggested that the Commissioners review the Activities Chart, taking into consideration the lack of funding due to budget cuts.

NEP Program Update:

In response to Commissioner Lenko's inquiry regarding the NEP Program balance, Ms. Mead reported that there was a balance of \$9,000.

Ms. Mead explained that she would be sending letters to the outstanding NEP applicants who previously received funding, requesting that they complete their projects by the end of May and informing them that no time extensions can be granted. She stated that they need to process their reimbursements during June before the start of the new funding cycle of 2009/2010 wherein there would be no funding.

Discussion ensued regarding the \$75,000 NEP funding not occurring in the fiscal year 2009/2010.

Ms. Mead reported that instead of listing the NEP Orientation Workshops at the beginning of the Spring 2009 Scottsdale Neighborhood College brochure, she inserted the following special note at the back of the brochure:

"At this printing, due to expected budget restrictions in the City of Scottsdale's budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 (July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010) we are not certain that this program will be available during the upcoming budget year."

Ms. Mead explained that due to the current economy many more people were calling expressing interest in the NEP program and she had to turn them away with hopes that the program would return the following year.

2008 Strategic Planning Retreat Project Ideas:

Vice-Chair Pompe invited the Commissioners to begin the strategic planning discussion. Commissioner Kidder pointed out that priorities 1, 2, and 3 would have to be addressed when the funding returns and suggested they address priorities 4/7, 6/8, 8, and 10 as follows:

- 4/7 Outreach through education, advocate safety through environmental design
- 6/8 Participate in neighborhood planning process, create citywide "public view" maintenance program
- 8 Explore Ordinance change
- 10 Review of Guidelines for possible revisions

Ms. Mead suggested that the Commission plan ahead with the optimistic view that the funding would resume on July 1, 2011.

Commissioner Kidder suggested that the Commission work towards getting an Ordinance change and setting up a process that allows them to accept donations. Vice-Chair Pompe opined that the economy is motivating everyone to more creative approach to funding.

Commissioner Schild stated that the creation of a citywide public view maintenance program would take some time to develop and suggested that they prepare a plan with recommendations for implementation once the budget improved. She elaborated that the public view maintenance program related to public right-of-ways that only have rock and dirt or broken fencing.

Commissioner Kidder expressed his concern that the applicant located at Hayden and Oak that requested in December 2008 to paint the front side of their buildings located on Hayden would have to wait for future funding while the daily maintenance suffers.

Commissioner Schild stated that south Scottsdale had lost numerous trees due to disease and recalled previous discussions to accept donations from the State or the National Arbor Day Foundation in order to reforest specific areas of Scottsdale.

She suggested that the Commission start working on the Ordinance change so that once it was approved by City Council they could decide whether to incorporate an Easy Grant Program or a Citywide Public View Maintenance Program into their Guidelines as well as discuss how to move forward with neighborhood-driven projects versus projects identified by the Commission.

Vice-Chair Pompe stressed the importance of starting now to allow for the lengthy process of an Ordinance change followed by a change to the guidelines. Commissioner Schild recalled that Paul Norman already supplied them with the verbiage for an Ordinance change which could occur within the next four to six months.

Discussion ensued regarding whether the Commission should prepare a new prioritized list of activities to focus on during 2009-2010 and agendize it for a vote at the May 2009 meeting.

Commissioner Schild pointed out that tonight's agenda item number four was already a discussion to modify Ordinance #2530. She suggested that they also move forward on developing a Neighborhood College class on organizing neighborhoods.

Discussion ensued regarding the Southern Scottsdale and Greater Airpark Community Area Plan Advisory Groups being put on hold.

Vice-Chair Pompe suggested arranging a class where NEP Program participants or interested applicants could meet with the Commission to brainstorm projects that could be accomplished without city funding, as well as addressing the concerns of the Mayor and City Manager concerns. Ms. Mead suggested sending a letter to the NEP Program class database inviting everyone to a meeting to brainstorm projects.

In response to Commissioner Kidder's inquiry regarding whether staff was tracking the number of phone calls being received regarding the NEP Program, Ms. Mead explained that she had not been keeping track of the calls and was only tracking the information she sends out to the NEP Program class database.

Commissioner Kidder suggested tracking the incoming calls to gather backup information the Commission could present to City Council in order to prove the need for the NEP Program funding, as well as the benefits the program has provided to many citizens and homeowner associations.

Discussion ensued regarding HOAs having trouble doing special assessments or assessment increases due to the economy. Commissioner Schild pointed out that many of the HOAs are only able to save money for routine maintenance.

Vice-Chair Pompe suggested stimulating the economy by giving the applicants less than 25% of the funds they need to do assessments or revitalization. Commissioner Kidder opined that requiring the applicants to purchase their supplies from Scottsdale vendors would also stimulate the economy.

In response to Commissioner Kalina's inquiry regarding whether the Neighborhood Service Center had a tracking system to record the requests they receive, Ms. Mead responded that they keep track of their contacts. She agreed to find out what information they track and to obtain copies of this information for the Commission.

In response to Commissioner Kalina's inquiry regarding what citizens are told when they request help with their neighborhood such as roll out containers or the Tool Trailer, Ms. Mead stated that usually the citizens are informed about whatever program or class is available depending upon their request.

Ms. Mead invited the Commission to use the slow summer months to prepare for the fall and Vice-Chair Pompe suggested preparing a tree program in order to have continued activity while the Ordinance change was in motion.

Commissioner Schild suggested adding desert plants and wildflowers to the tree program. Commissioner Lenko discussed continuing to be in the citizens' thoughts by holding a round table discussion as well as other projects that could be accomplished without city funding so that when the funding returns everyone is ready.

Ms. Mead reported that the next set of two-hour Neighborhood College classes would be scheduled for September 2009. Commissioner Schild presented a Tallahassee curriculum she found on the internet with the following class topics:

1. How do you create a neighborhood organization?
2. How to be a good neighborhood
3. How to organize your neighborhood to address certain issues
4. How to develop goals

Vice-Chair Pompe opined that they were trying to encourage communication among the citizens rather than sending Code Enforcement to resolve their issues. Ms. Mead explained that many citizens are afraid of how their neighbors might retaliate if they voiced their concerns.

Discussion ensued regarding scheduled collaborative monthly meetings to discuss issues that impact the neighborhood on a regular basis being an excellent forum to discuss the issues in a non-threatening atmosphere. Ms. Mead stated that Neighborhood Watch groups are an excellent starting point.

Commissioner Schild said that if a mechanism that encourages participation and discussion is provided, people would attend out of curiosity.

3. Discussion Regarding the Neighborhood Enhancement Partnership (NEP) Program as it Relates to the FY 2009-2010 Budget

Chair Kern invited Ms. Mead to make additional comments to the NEP Program 2009-2010 budget discussion which was started in the preceding agenda item.

Ms. Mead reported that City Council's first meeting to discuss the budget with the Budget Review Commission was scheduled for next Tuesday. Commissioner Kidder stated that the Budget Review Commission had only met one time since Council had requested that they meet every other Thursday in the Kiva in order to be televised.

Commissioner Kalina inquired whether any of the Commissioners had heard the announcement that Scottsdale would be receiving approximately \$500,000 federal stimulus funding.

Ms. Mead presented copies of a memo she received today from Melanie Schwandt regarding federal stimulus funding to Scottsdale. Based on preliminary estimates, the City of Scottsdale expects to receive funding in the following areas:

- Public Safety: The Scottsdale Police Department will receive \$260,686 through Byrne-JAG formula grants.
- Community Development: The city will receive \$312,961 in direct funding through Community Development Block Grants.
- Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy: The city will receive \$2.4 million from the Energy Efficiency Block Grant.
- Transportation: The city will receive a total of about \$11 million from the U.S. Department of Transportation, including \$6 million allocated through the Maricopa Association of Governments and \$5 million allocated through the Regional Public Transportation Authority.

She suggested that the Commission check out www.scottsdaleaz.gov/recovery for periodic updates.

Ms. Mead explained that the regulations for this funding had not yet been published and her contact at CDBG informed her that more information would be available in late April. She elaborated that non-profit organizations and government agencies who have a project for submission under one of the four categories must be ready to submit right away and be able to complete the project within 120 days.

The first category projects must benefit a low to moderate income area and must be able to prove through income checking or census data that 51% of the neighbors in that area would benefit from the project.

In response to Commissioner Schild and Vice-Chair Pompe's inquiry regarding whether the city had maps with income demographics laid out, Ms. Mead stated that Harry Higgins in the Planning Department had prepared demographics maps and opined that those maps most likely did not relate to income. She recalled that the census did contain income-related questions.

Ms. Mead explained that the second category projects must related to designated redevelopment areas affected by acts of God such as hurricanes or flooding.

Commissioner Schild explained that current CDBG funding was spent on non-profit organizations such as Community Bridges, Scottsdale Training & Rehabilitation Services (STARS), and the Scottsdale Prevention Institute, as recommended by the Human Services Commission.

Discussion ensued regarding why CDBG was receiving additional funding when other departments were going through cutbacks. Commissioner Kalina recalled that the report he read said that \$500,000 was earmarked for public improvements and neighborhood programs.

Ms. Mead recalled that she and Mr. Keagy had read a newspaper article identifying \$500,000 funding for public safety, community development, neighborhoods, and roadway research.

Commissioner Lenko suggested that the Commission get their Easy Grant Program or a tree planting programs ready for submission in case additional federal stimulus funding was made available, and Chair Kern requested that a stimulus funds update be agendized for future discussion.

4. Update and Discussion Regarding Possible Modification to Ordinance #2530, Per the Recommendations from the City Attorney's Office, Specifically Related to How Donations Could be Utilized

Ms. Mead presented copies of Ordinance #3842 which reflects the integration of verbiage prepared by Mr. Norman and Scottsdale Pride Commission's Ordinance #3732, which demonstrates the language the Commission wishes to emulate in order to solicit and accept donations. Commissioner Schild pointed out that the language was almost identical.

In response to Commissioner Lenko's inquiry regarding integrating the Easy Grant Program into the Ordinance possibly wording subsection (a) more loosely, Commissioner Schild explained that the Easy Grant Program is already allowed in the Ordinance and would be implemented through the NEP Program.

Ms. Mead stated that it would require a change to the NEP Program Guidelines, and recalled that the Commission had initially requested permission to run a pilot program which was outside of the approved guidelines.

It was the consensus of the Commission to agendize the approval of Ordinance #3842 as presented at the May 2009 meeting. Commissioner Schild noted that the ordinances were almost identical with the exception of the purpose, powers, and duties being separated out in one ordinance and combined in the other.

Ms. Mead said Mr. Norman has asked the Commission to review the verbiage and let him know their thoughts before approving it.

5. Plan for Participation in the Annual Keep Scottsdale Beautiful Adopt-a-Road Litter Pickup Event April 25, 2009

Commissioner Schild reported that the April 25, 2009 Adopt-A-Road cleanup event was one of the two regularly scheduled Keep Scottsdale Beautiful events. She pointed out that the Commission still owed two more cleanups for 2009 and suggested that the Commission participate in the April 25, 2009 event in order to eliminate the need to make separate trash collection arrangements.

Commissioner Schild stated that she had six litter picker uppers and orange vests in her car which were provided to the Commission by Rae Darden. Commissioner Lenko announced that she would be unable to attend the April 25, 2009 event and Commissioner Kidder stated that he would be there.

In response to Commissioner Schild's inquiry regarding what time the Commission wished to meet on April 25th, it was the consensus of the Commission to meet at the Bashas' parking lot at 8:00 a.m. Ms. Mead agreed to post the event notice and to email everyone an event reminder.

6. Staff and Commission Updates (A.R.S. § 38-431.02 (K)).

Ms. Mead reported that she had inquired whether the city had a replacement for Commissioner Horwitz and she was informed that they did not yet need a replacement. She requested that all of the Commissioners hand in their signed Disclosure Forms by the end of the meeting.

Ms. Mead wondered why Helen Corson had not been in contact with the Commission for awhile since they had discussed publishing an article about the NEP Program in their newsletter.

7. Open Call to the Public (A.R.S. § 38-431.02)

No members of the public wished to address the Commission.

8. Next Meeting Date and Future Agenda Items

Ms. Mead summarized that the items to be agendized for May included a stimulus fund update, action item for strategic planning purposes inclusive of the prioritization of an activities list, and the discussion and approval of Ordinance #3842.

Commissioner Schild suggested that the development of a Neighborhood College class on how to organize and maintain a neighborhood association also be agendized for the May 6, 2009 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
A/V Tronics, Inc. DBA AVTranz